HISTORY OF TALMAGE

SUPPLEMENT #1

1882 - 1982

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TALMAGE COMMUNITY CENTER
(formerly Talmage Chamber of Commerce)

Stanley Ritter - President
Pershing Viox - Vice President
Verda Ritter - Secretary
Esther Viox - Treasurer

VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

James P. Gerking - Chairman
Harold Busacker
Ralph Busacker
Roger Teten

VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

Merlyn Robb Osborn - Clerk/Treasurer
Margy Thompson - Librarian
Melvin Howe - Maintenance

LIBRARY BOARD

Verda Ritter - President
Violice O'Connor - Vice President
Lora Damme - Secretary
Mary (Mrs. Roger) Teten - Treasurer
Erma Damme

PARK BOARD

James Bohlken - President
Allen Morris - Secretary
Darrell Wellsandt - Treasurer
Larry Bottcher
Larry Wellsandt

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

Allen Bischoff

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

Jim Brehm, Legion Commander

TALMAGE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
of Talmage Community Center

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Merlyn Robb Osborn - Chairman
Carol (Bischoff) Rinne - Secretary
Kathy Teten - Secretary (Honorary)

SPEAKERS

Edward Bottcher

HISTORIAN

Joata Bottcher

PARADE

Helen Frerichs - Co-Chairman
Vernon Grundman - Co-Chairman
Jim Brehm - Veteran Organizations

FOOD

Jim Bohlken
Robert Kinnison
Roger Teten
Larry Wellsandt

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE
AND RELIGIONS DISPLAY

Rev. Wm. Dressen

YOUTH, DISPLAYS & ENTERTAINMENT

Enid Meyer
Carol Rinne
Kathy Teten

TALMAGE HERITAGE DAY FOR THE
NEBRASKA COMMITTEE FOR THE
HUMANITIES GRANT

Dr. Robert Bohlken
Merlyn Robb Osborn
Carol (Bischoff) Rinne

TALMAGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Merlyn Holtgrewe, President

The Background "Letter of Honor" was given to Honorees on Talmage Centennial Birthday Party, March 7, 1982.

ARCHIBALD A. TALMAGE

Talmage was platted on March 7, 1882 by Clark Puffer. Puffer wrote to Archibald A. Talmage, general manager of the Missouri Pacific Railroad in St. Louis asking his permission to name the new town after him. The Missouri Pacific Railroad built the railroad line up the little Nemaha Valley to complete their line from St. Louis to Omaha.

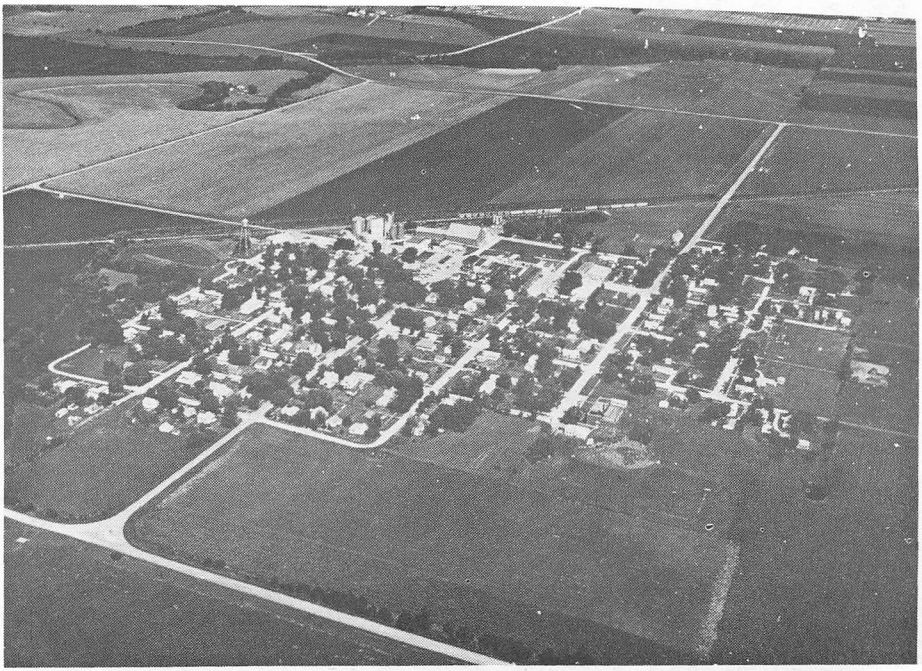
Puffer did not want the new town named after himself. Talmage consented to having the town named after him and visited Talmage during the spring of 1882.

Talmage was born April 25, 1834, in Warren County, N.J., the son of a Presbyterian minister. He started in the railroad business as a freight clerk with the New York and Erie Railroad.

During the Civil War, he was master of transportation of the military railroad constructed by the U.S. Government east and south of Chattanooga, Tenn., and became well known as a railroad manager.

In 1870, he became General Superintendent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad under the ownership of Jay Gould. It was in this capacity that Talmage was working when Talmage, Nebr. was platted.

In March 1887, he became vice president and general manager of the Wabash Western Railroad. He died in his private railroad car in Peru, Ind. on June 28, 1887. He is buried in Bellefountain Cemetery, St. Louis, Mo.



Talmage, Nebraska is located in Section 36 (School Section) of McWilliam Township. The above photograph was taken in 1981. McWilliam Township was named in honor of David McWilliams and his brother, William McWilliams. David was born in Pennsylvania in 1829, moving to Otoe County in 1855. He lived on his farm in northwestern McWilliams Precinct. He served as a Judge for Special Election, Justice of the Peace, Road Supervisor and Election Official, all in Otoe County. William was born in Ireland in 1817 or 1818. He lived on his farm in northeastern McWilliams Precinct. He served as a Judge of Election and Road Supervisor, all in Otoe County.

FOREWORD

In an unusual coincidence, the two members on the Centennial Committee are direct descendants of Clark Puffer, founder of the town of Talmage.

Robb Osborn, who is Centennial Chairman, is the fifth generation and Mrs. Edward (Joata Osborn) Bottcher is the fourth generation.

Talmage area residents 90 years old or who will be 90 during 1982 were honored at the village's 100th anniversary party on Sunday, March 7th.

Sitting at the head table for the Talmage Centennial Birthday Party held on March 7, 1982 were: Stanley Ritter, President of Talmage Community Center, Pat Ramold, Otoe County Commissioner, Rev. Wm. Dressen, Wiley Remmers, State Senator, Robb Osborn, Chairman of the Talmage Centennial Committee, Dr. Robert Bohlken, M.C. and Harold Busacker, temporary chairman of the Village Board of Trustees. Dr. Robert Bohlken, head of the Division of Communications at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo., returned to his native Talmage to speak and act as Master of Ceremonies for the party. Otoe County Commissioner, Pat Ramold, of Nebraska City and Senator Wiley Remmers of Auburn also spoke at the party. The honored guests wore corsages presented by Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Pat) Ramold of Nebraska City. About 300 persons attended the party.

Honorees present were: front row from left, Leta Neeman, Ida Badberg, Sena Marshall, Clara Viox and Elsie Osborn. Back row, Delphus Busacker, Emma Juilfs, Cora Krogman and Clara and Walter Walker.

BICENTENNIAL YEAR 1976

Talmage observed the Bicentennial of the United States in 1976. In so doing, the village of Talmage became the only community in the State of Nebraska to deposit funds for the Tricentennial in the year 2076.

The money was collected through the efforts of Mrs. Edward (Joata) Bottcher. Two hundred persons from the community contributed $1.00 each to the fund and signed their names on a donation list.

The $200 was deposited in a savings account of the Midwest Federal Savings and Loan of Syracuse at 5¾ percent interest compounded quarterly. It will generate more than $62,000 a century from now.

The pass book, names and a book of the History of Talmage, along with many other items were placed in a time capsule in the east park in Talmage which will be opened in the year 2076.

The monument that houses the capsule was built and donated by the Talmage American Legion. The capsules were donated by Commonwealth Electric of Lincoln. The bronze plaques on the front was donated by Andrews Monument Works of Nebraska City.

Money is again being collected now to put on interest for 100 years for the bicentennial of Talmage. Many objects will be sealed in the capsule which will also be put in the monument and be opened in the year 2082.

TALMAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Trustees who resigned and/or declined re-appointment since 1976 are:

Mrs. Welton (Marlyse) Juilfs in 1979 with 13 years service
Mrs. Melvin (Bonnie) Howe in 1980 with 14 years service
Mrs. Harold (Millicent) Busacker in 1980 with 25 years service; with Mrs. Busacker's instigation and supervision, a much needed card catalog system was established.

Board members serve as officers on a two-year rotation basis. Current Trustees and year of appointment are:

Mrs. Stanley (Verda) Ritter, president, 1961
Mrs. John (Violice) O'Connor, vice president, 1980
Mrs. Roger (Mary) Teten, treasurer, 1979
Miss Lora L. Damme, secretary, 1980
Mrs. William H. (Erma) Damme, 1957

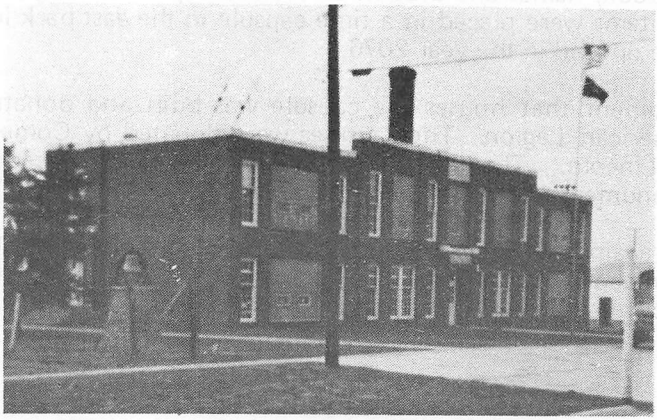
Mrs. George (Margy) Thompson continues to be librarian, and Mrs. Reinhold (Mary) Teten, Jr. is substitute librarian.

KREIMER STORE

Stanley Ritter retired from Kreimers on January 1, 1981, the owners now being Roger Teten and Robert Kinnison. Kreimer's Store now has eleven employees. Under the guidelines of the USDA, the store has undergone much remodeling.

RITTER RADIO & TV

Leonard Ritter lived on the family farm northeast of Talmage. In the late 1920's, he started building radios. He did repair work in the W. P. Hermann Furniture Store and sold Atwater Kent radios. Later on, he worked with Calvin Pearson, who had an appliance store and they sold Zenith and Motorola televisions. After Calvin moved to Shenandoah, Iowa in 1953, Leonard took over the Zenith Agency and worked with Clarence Biere, who had a workshop in the Theo Damme Barber Shop Building, north of the Charles Parker Pool Hall. From there, Leonard moved to the old butcher shop building, now owned by Ed Bottcher.



Talmage present schoolhouse that was dedicated in 1935.

BRYAN-HOLTGREWE AMERICAN LEGION POST 246
TALMAGE, NEBRASKA, INC.

The American Legion Post at Talmage was named in honor of Riley Bryan and Carl J. Holtgrewe who both died during WW I.

Riley Bryan

Riley Bryan, corporal, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Bryan, Talmage, was born at Brock. He entered the service at Tecumseh, June 26, 1917 and served at Camp Cody, N.M., Company M, 6th Nebraska. He was transferred to Company D, 109 Supply Train and later transferred to General Hospital at Fort Bayard, N.M., where he died of acute "neifritas" Jan. 10, 1918.

Carl Holtgrewe

Carl J. Holtgrewe, private, son of Mrs. Caroline Holtgrewe of Lorton, was born there Sept. 17, 1890. He entered the service at Nebraska City Sept. 20, 1918 and served at Camp Funston, Newport News and France 355 Company, 89th Division, Co. F. Holtgrewe was killed by a German shrapnel at Chauteau Thierry as he was advancing across the Marne. He was the first Otoe County soldier to be killed in battle and was buried in France by his corporal and comrades.

In the late 1960's, Ronald Niedermeyer, a partner in the J & R Hardware took over the television business. After a couple of years, Leonard returned to the selling and servicing of TV's again. This was done at his farm home.

In the early 1970's, Kenneth (Bud) Wellsandt, who had just finished serving in the U.S. Air Force, where he had taken up electronics, took over the television business.

TALMAGE IMPLEMENT CO. & TANGEMAN GRAIN CO.

In Sept. 1940, International Harvester Co granted a dealership to James P. Gerking. A building was erected on the concrete foundation made by Al Misegadis on the east side of Main St. IHC tractors, trucks, farm machinery, parts and repair service were available here. World War II made it necessary to ration new equipment. In 1951, the building was heavily damaged by a tornado but was rebuilt. In March, 1955, the business was destroyed by fire. Mr. Gerking decided not to rebuild and purchased Tangeman Grain Co. located at the site of the old Tangeman Mill. Tangeman has a storage capacity of 500,000 bushels and is managed by the owner's grandson, Kent Gerking.

NEIDERMEYER INSURANCE & J & R HARDWARE

In the fall of 1976, Lavonne started a ceramic shop in the J & R Hardware building in Talmage. The shop is still in operation and she's now pouring some of her own greenware in addition to custom finishing pieces for her customers.

Oct. 1, 1981, Ron and Lavonne Niedermeyer purchased the Elmer Biere Insurance Agency (which had been in business for 21 years) and built an office in the building occupied by ceramics and hardware. They are in business there 6 days a week selling various lines of insurance.

The Niedermeyers live 3½ miles west of Talmage and have 2 children, Michael, a junior at Nemaha Valley School and Tracy, a 7th grader.

They belong to Zion United Church of Christ in Talmage, the Fire Dept., and Rescue Squad.

BUSINESSES

Greg Teten has a welding shop on their farm northeast of Talmage.

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Raymond Damme does general repair work in his shop about three miles north of Talmage where he lives. He has done this kind of work for many years. He is also an Amsoil Dealer.

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Kenneth Teten of Auburn set up his insurance agency in Talmage in 1982.

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Russel Badberg has purchased the Badberg Garage from his father, Don Badberg.

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Mrs. Cecilia Antholz has operated the Talmage Beauty Salon since the last of 1980. She has another operator helping her much of the time.

****

Melvin Howe purchased his father's share of the partnership in 1975 and has retained the Howe and Son name.

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Mr. and Mrs. Con Lempka who came to Talmage in 1959 sold their tavern to Don (Bud) and Vera Mae Badberg November 1980. It is now known as the Longhorn Saloon.

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The Diamond Restaurant and Lounge was sold to Jon and Prudy Gorton of Syracuse in Sept. 1979. In May 1982, it was purchased by Fred and Bertha Rummery of Dunbar.

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Dr. Michael P. McCormick, dentist, of Nebraska City is in his Talmage office every Tuesday.

Dr. Paul Madison of Nebraska City has his office open in Talmage every Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Stanley (Verda) Ritter, nurse, is in charge.

Both offices are in the building that was remodeled for the doctors.

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Lyman Bottcher acquired the agency for Vermeer Balers January, 1974. He became a District Manager in 1977 and at the present time has ten dealers. This business is located on their farm about 1½ miles west of Talmage where they live.

****

ATTORNEYS

Lora L. Damme, Talmage native, was admitted to the Nebraska Bar in 1976 and now practices law in Talmage.

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ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Zion congregation is currently planning to celebrate their church's centennial during its 1983-84 centennial year with a series of special Sunday services.

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BANK OF TALMAGE

Serving the Bank of Talmage in 1982 are: William Damme, President and Cashier, Erma Damme, Vice President, Lora L. Damme, Vice-President, Marjorie Birkmann, Assistant Cashier, Janice Keen, Assistant Cashier, Alida Holtgrewe, Judy Eichenberger, June Brinkman, Bookkeepers, and Joan (Volkmer) Huber, substitute bookkeeper. Loans are mainly agricultural in nature, reflecting the strong farming orientation of the Talmage community.

TALMAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The fire department has made several improvements during the past years. The building housing the fire trucks was insulated, and in 1980, a new roof was added.

A new water tank was bought for the 1959 Ford fire truck in the fall of 1981. Several new hoses, Scott air packs and other equipment has been purchased to help aid our firefighters. The money for these purchases is made possible by the Rescue Squad-Firemen's Breakfasts held in the spring and fall.

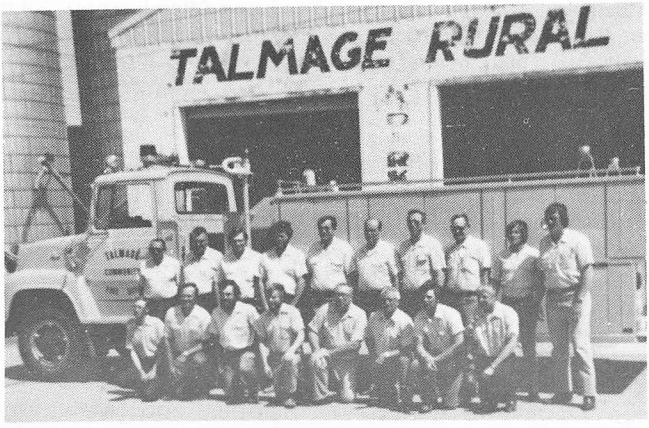
TALMAGE FIRE DEPT. - left to right: Melvin Howe, Lavern Witter, Larry Bottcher, Eugene Watson, Fireman & Rescue

In the fall of 1981 and the spring of 1982, a new fire and tornado alert system was bought by the Village Board and installed.

Since 1980, "Water fights" were held for the enjoyment of the participants and the spectators. Teams from other towns are invited. This has become an annual event for the department.

Talmage is a member of Otoe County Mutual Aid, which was established to help neighboring towns in time of need.

The fire department consists of 22 members, all of whom are volunteer. Don Badberg is the Fire Chief and Roger Teten is the Assistant Fire Chief.



TALMAGE FIRE DEPT. - left to right: Mark Nowack, Allen Bischoff, Jim Grundman, Russ Badberg, Don Badberg, Ray Arends, David Teten, Ron Niedermeyer. 2nd Row: Raymond Damme, Eugene Weber, Gary Wellsandt, Mike Badberg, Keith Edmonds, Bob Kinnison, Rog Teten, Norm Teten, Craig Mannschrek, Jim Bohlken. Absent when picture was taken: Lavern Wittler, Melvin Howe, Larry Bottcher, Eugene Watson.

TALMAGE RESCUE UNIT

Over the past several years, the Rescue Service has made many improvements to help them serve the community better.

A new Chevrolet ambulance was purchased in 1978 from the donations of the Talmage community. In February of 1982, a 1978 Dodge van with 4 wheel drive was bought as a backup unit. These ambulances are kept at the fire building.

RESCUE SQUAD - left to right, 1st row: Delores Bischoff, Elaine Hauberg, Jo Ann Gadeken, Lavonne Niedermeyer, Joyce Kinnison, Kathy Teten, Deb Wellsandt, Mike Gerdes, Don Badberg, Raymond Damme. 2nd Row: Allen Bischoff, Keith Edmonds, Don Gadeken, Greg Teten, Ron Niedermeyer, Jim Teten, Bob Kinnison, Don Teten, Jerry Wellsandt, Rog Teten, Mary Teten. Absent when picture was taken: Eugene Watson.

Another emergency telephone was installed down by the fire house.

A number of spring and fall Rescue Squad-Firemen's Breakfasts have been served. The proceeds from these breakfasts are used to buy equipment and help pay for the Rescue Squad's training. E.M.T. (Emergency Medical Technician) training is required every three years.

The Rescue Squad has 16 E.M.T. members and five volunteer drivers. There are approximately 35 calls made a year. Their rescue services have been extended to part of the Brock area. All of the members hold offices and take part to help make it successful.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - BRYAN-HOLTGREWE UNIT 246

The present day Auxiliary was organized in June, 1922 with 34 members. In 1982, we now have 78 Senior members and 20 Junior members.

Officers for the Centennial year are: President, Enid Meyer, 1st Vice-President, Kathey Boellstorff, 2nd Vice-President, Kathleen Bottcher, Secretary, Carol Rinne, Treasurer, Arlene Keilsmeier, Sergeant at Arms, Marlyse Juilfs, Historians, Nelda Bischoff and Carol Rinne, Chaplain, Irene Meyer, Publicity, Leola Badberg.

In addition to the activities already listed in the history of the Talmage book, the members do many other things.

Each year, the Auxiliary and Legion present two outstanding teacher certificates to teachers from the Nemaha Valley School System.

They sponsor an Essay Contest for grades 7-12 and a Poppy Poster Contest for grades 4-6 at Nemaha Valley School.

They make tray favors and lap robes for the Veterans Hospital in Lincoln.

HISTORY OF NEW IDEA EXTENSION CLUB

The Nebraska Bi-Centennial project for 1976 was a "needlepoint tapestry" in which each county depicted a point of interest to represent their county. Mrs. W. R. McCleary, Syracuse, drew the Arbor Lodge Historical Park Mansion on a 12"x12" block and Mrs. Elmer Wellsandt (New Idea Club) and Mrs. Carl Lechner (Friendly Workers Club), both of Nebraska City, did the needlepointing. The "Tapestry" was shown at various places and events throughout the state and is permanently displayed in one of our state buildings, such as the Capitol.

One of the club goals is to remember the elderly and we visit a Care Center Home each year by entertaining, visiting and serving refreshments to the residents.

Health care is important to all and we helped sponsor a film, "Cancer of the Breast" and conducted a "Colorectal Screening" program.

The 50th Anniversary of the New Idea Club was observed with an open house on Sunday, September 14, 1980 at the Talmage Community Building. One hundred guests registered. Special guests who attended were: Mrs. Marion Harms, Syracuse (a former member and Extension Home Agent); Helen Holland Swanson and husband, Wendell, of Gault, Iowa (Helen was a former home agent), and Mrs. Sophie Power, Otoe, the 1980 chairman of the Council of Home Extension Clubs, Otoe County. Displays of articles and lessons during the last 50 years was provided.

We meet on the second Friday of the month (excluding the summer months) and use the lessons provided by our present Extension Home Economist, Mrs. Judy Schwab.

1982 New Idea Extension Club Members are:

Mrs. Irene Meyer (charter member)
Mrs. Alma Wellsandt (charter member)
Mrs. Norman Teten - President - LAMP*
Mrs. Fredrick Wellsandt - Vice President
Mrs. Donald Hopp - Secretary
Mrs. Donald Teten - Treasurer - LAMP*
Mrs. Sarah E. Cook - Reading Leader
Mrs. Roy Peterson - Family Life Leader
Mrs. Norman Rohlfing - Music
Mrs. Leta Neemann
Mrs. Irene Wellsandt
Mrs. Allen Schroeder

* (LAMP -leadership, assertiveness, membership, personal development)

SOUTHEASTERNERS CLUB

We were organized on February 21, 1972 as an extension club. We are no longer an extension club but do meet regularly as a woman's club. We have a membership of 22 with one charter member left, Lavonne Niedermeyer.

This past year, we remodeled the Talmage street Christmas decorations and helped the Jaycees put them up. Improvements at the park has also been a major project of our group. The "Welcome to Talmage" sign was a project of the club last year. To honor Talmage, we sponsored a Centennial Cookbook with recipes contributed by members of the community. We look forward to serving Talmage for many years to come.

HISTORY OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

On January 11, 1981, in the annual meeting of the congregation, it was voted to build a new church. The final service and a service of deconsecration for the old church building were held May 17, 1981. Following the service, ground was broken for the new church. The old church was dismantled in less than a week by members of the congregation, and construction for the new church began around June 1st on the same site as the old.

The cornerstone laying ceremony was held October 25, 1981. While the new church was under construction, worship services were held in the Talmage School gymnasium. Dedication services were held for the new church on Sunday morning, February 21, 1982. Bishop Wayne Weissenbuehler of the Central District of the American Lutheran Church dedicated the church and preached the sermon.

In the afternoon service held on February 21, 1982, the 10th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church was noted with a special service of praise and thanksgiving.

REKA ARENDS FAMILY

Reka and Talk Mary (Tetten) Arends were born, educated and married in Hanover, Germany before emigrating to the United States in the early 1850's. After a few years in Madison Co., Ill., they moved with their family, including John Herman (born 1855) to the Talmage area. In 1860, Reka traded the parcel of land where they had been making their home in Section 30 of Rock Creek Precinct for a parcel of land in Section 32, also in Rock Creek Precinct. When they first moved into a log structure which still stands on the farm, there was only one other house between their place and Nebr. City. Reka Arends met a tragic death in 1874 when he was hauling the first load of lumber for the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church. He fell under the wagon wheels and was instantly killed.

John Herman Arends married Lizzie Kastens in 1880. Seven children were born to them. Dora (Mrs. Wm. Starner), Mamie (Mrs. G. C. Bischoff), Leta (Mrs. George Neeman), Alma Arends, Lily (Mrs. Emil Teten), Irene (Mrs. Elmer Meyer) and Richard Arends.

After Richard married Christina Wellsandt in 1912, they maintained their home on the Arends farm, and John Herman Arends lived with his son and family until his death in 1939. The children of Richard and Christina were: Herman (1916-1974), married to Laverne Tegtmeyer, children-Duane and Barbara (Mrs. Delmar Neeman); Mayree, married to Harold Gray, children-Gary and Zane; and Raymond Arends. Raymond married Merlyn Wittler in 1946. Their sons are Richard who married Deborah Urbanek; David and Daniel (1954-1974). These boys were the fifth generation to have lived on the same farm.

BISCHOFF FAMILY

Gottlieb Christian Bischoff was the father of Adam, Gottlieb Christian, Steffen, Mike, Barbara and Margaret. They were all born in Nusborn, Baden, Germany. They landed in Chicago in 1854 and the father Gottlieb Christian died there. They all worked there and the girls were married in Illinois.

Adam came to Nebraska in 1857 and moved to the farm that he had pre-empted. Gottlieb Christian, Steffen and Mike came in 1858.

Adam was killed by a gunshot in 1858 and Steffen died in 1859 by drowning. Mike moved to a farm near Elmwood, Nebraska.

Adam had pre-empted the farm so then Gottlieb Christian bought it for $200.00 in gold. In 1860, he married Elizabeth Neolch Fuchs, a widow with two sons, John and Joseph. John married Helena Weber and had five children, Carl, Frank, Johanna, Elizabeth and Dena. Joseph married Katherine Wuertle and had two children, Lawrence and Lillie.

Gottlieb and Elizabeth had eight children, Johanna, Elizabeth, Christian, Gottlieb Christian, Louise, William and Anna Marie. Louise married Gus Meyer and were the parents of Elmer, Walter, Arthur, LeRoy, Clarence, Delbert, Lorene, Evelyn, Marvin and Adaline Meyer. William married Emma Misegadis and were the parents of Roland, Nora and Viola Bischoff. Roland married Opal Pickett and had two children, Larry and Terry. Nora married Rev. John Streng and had four children, Herbert, Irene, Ervin and Ruth. Viola married Harvey Burns and had five children, Carl, Glen, Irene, Dale and Joan. Anna Marie married Theodore Frerichs and were the parents of Raymond Frerichs. Gottlieb Christian married Mary Arends Glassmeyer, a widow with two children, Richard and Alma. Richard married Ella Ross and had one son, Ervin. Alma married Elmer Wellsandt and were the parents of one daughter, Valeria. Gottlieb and Mary had two sons, Harvey and Arnold. Harvey married Leola Morris and had six children, William, Connie, Roy, Mary Kay, Bob and John. Arnold married Nelda Kock and had three children, Donn, Allen and Carol.

BOTTCHER FAMILY

Edward Bottcher and Joata Osborn were married September 5, 1928 and have lived on their farm southwest of Talmage since that time.

Edward is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. George K. Bottcher who bought their first farm northwest of Talmage over 100 years ago for 92c an acre.

Joata is the great-great-granddaughter of the Clark Puffers who donated the land for the Talmage town site in 1881.

Not only row crops but hogs and cattle were a large part of their operation during the time that Edward was active in farming.

Edward has served since 1938 on the local School Board, County Re-organization Committee, State School Board and at this time is still serving on the Educational Service Unit 4 Board that comprises five counties.

They are the parents of two sons, Lyman and Lon. After finishing high school, both sons enlisted in the Air Force and served for four years.

Lyman married Kathleen Heng in 1954. They live on the farm which is the sixth generation in the family. They have two daughters and one son. Their oldest daughter, Connie, married Robert Miller of Omaha in 1976. They have a daughter, Kristin and son, Jeffrey which makes five generations in the Osborn family at this time.

Larry married Susan Foster, a registered nurse, April 3, 1982. He is farming with his father.

Vicki Jo is a junior in high school.

Lon married Judy Carman in 1959. They had two sons, Daniel who is 22, and Jeffrey who died in 1975. Lon married Kim Troung in 1977. They have a daughter, Carol, who is three years old. Lon is a teacher and has been on the Island of Guam for 12 years, and at this time is a science professor at the Guam Community College.

In 1967, when the state of Nebraska observed its Centennial, and also Otoe County being the home of Arbor Day, we were given permission to plant a Ginko tree on the United States capital grounds, the first state in the Union to have this honor. Forty-six people, mostly from Otoe County, went by bus to Washington, D.C. to plant the tree. Edward and Joata were the coordinators and guides of the tour. This was the beginning of the group called the "Jolly Trippers." The Bottchers have sponsored a tour each year since that time having traveled to every state in the Union, plus Canada, Mexico and the Bahamas. In 1976, for the country's Bicentennial, they escorted two bus loads to Washington, D.C. to plant a state tree, the cottonless cottonwood, on the Capital grounds. This fall, they will sponsor their 17th tour which will be to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn., plus many other places.

THE J. H. DAMME FAMILY

J. H. Damme, pioneer merchant, lumberman and bank director, came to Talmage in 1881 at the age of 29 as manager for the Chicago Lumber Company, following a few years in Nebraska City learning the mercantile business. The manager had to pay the freight bill in Brock for the first car of lumber into Talmage.

In the fall of 1881, Mr. Damme built a two story frame general merchandise store, located at the corner of 4th and Main Streets. The brick building, replacing the original structure which burned in 1887, still stands. This brick was made at the Spicknall Brick Yard located on the "T", one-quarter mile north of Talmage.

The first meetings of the Evangelical Church, now Zion United Church of Christ, were held in 1883 in the hall on the second floor. Mr. Damme was a charter member and when he married Caroline Holtgrewe in 1884, she also joined that church.

He was responsive to the farmers' needs by staying open until midnight to purchase eggs, butter and poultry which were traded for staples such as sugar, salt, stoneware, cabbage for kraut, oyster shell, peaches, often handled in carload lots. In turn, carloads of apples and potatoes were shipped out. Many young people worked as store clerks over the years. Mrs. Damme opened their home to rural girls so that they could attend high school.

In 1884, Mr. Damme purchased his first shares of stock of The Bank of Talmage. From that time until his death in 1940, he acted as a director of the board, and at various times holding the positions of President and Vice President. During the 1930's, it was largely through the leadership of Mr.

Damme, Charles E. Wood and Herman Arends that the bank survived the depression period of many bank failures.

As president for over 25 years of the Otoe-Johnson Counties Drainage District No. 1, the Little Nemaha River was straightened by construction of a new channel which resulted in drainage of thousands of acres of swampy ground, thereby vastly enhancing agricultural production of this river valley. In June of 1976, the land for the Veterans Park was made available by Mr. Damme's family in remembrance of his dedication to the community.

Mr. Damme expected his children to carry on his business practices and community projects. His children, John, Emma (C.C. Damme Wood), Henry, William and Theodore, all clerked in the general store with John, Henry and Ted remaining in the grocery and mercantile businesses in various towns for most of their lives. Ted operated Damme's Store in Talmage until 1956 to round out more than 76 years of continuous service to the community. Emma operated a gift shop.

The sons belonged to local organizations such as the baseball and basketball town teams, the Volunteer Fire Department, the Chamber of Commerce, Maennerchor. Henry and Ted both served terms as Mayor, and Bill and Ted have been on the School Board. During Ted's term as Mayor, Talmage became one of the first towns in a large area to install a city sewer system. Bill was the original member of the County Planning Commission. Emma, as well as the boys, was active in Zion Church, especially as organist and choir director, positions also held by Bill and his wife, Erma. Emma, Bill and Ted are graduates of the University of Nebraska as are two of J. H. Damme's grandchildren.

The banking business of Mr. Damme was continued by Bill who assumed the responsibilities of Vice President in 1939. During World War II, he served in the Signal Intelligence Service in London and Cambridge, England; in the War Department, Washington, D.C., he was Officer in Charge of breaking German codes. Following his discharge as a Lt. Colonel, he resumed his duties as President of the bank, managed the family farming operation, and continued the insurance agency his father began in 1901. Bill was on the church board and made land available for the Veterans Park and Community Hall. Erma aids in his many ventures - is Vice President of the bank and was president of the PTA and of the Public Library. Their children, Lora and Jon, continue the family traditions. Lora is Vice President of the bank and an attorney in Talmage and serves on the Boards of the Public Library and Zion Church. Jon has entered the field of education and church service.

MERLYN OSBORN FAMILY

Merlyn C. Osborn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carrol Osborn and a direct descendant of Clark Puffer who gave the land for the original town of Talmage, was born on May 14, 1908. Merlyn C. Osborn married Virginia Lee Lewis on March 12, 1930. They had two sons, Denis Lewis on April 27, 1932 and Merlyn Robb on Sept. 19, 1936. Denis L. married Malee Uthaitawat on May 20, 1973 and have one daughter, Denise Malee, born on Aug. 24th, 1974. Merlyn Robb married Maria Sawangvidt on April 6, 1966 and have one son, Merlyn Dohn, born on May 28, 1968.

Merlyn C. farmed on the Osborn farmstead all of his life. The Osborn farm has been owned by the Osborn family for 103 years in 1982 and re-

ceived the Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Farm Award in 1981. Denis L. worked all his life in the poultry industry designing computerized chicken houses. Merlyn Robb spent 13 years in the Army, finished college and presently is working as the Talmage Village Clerk and Treasurer. He is also the Chairman of the Talmage Centennial Committee. Denis is the first and Robb is the second of the 4th generation to have joined the Masonic Lodge at Brock.

Born Nov 5, 1823 at Strumpfebach, Kadiger, Bath (Germany)

THE RITTER FAMILY

Rev. Josiah Ritter was a missionary-minded Lutheran pastor, having organized several congregations in Illinois and Iowa.

He and his 2nd wife, Charlotte (Strangeman-Weinman) and their three children, John, Mary (Mrs. John Frerichs) and William (3 months old) came to Otoe County in 1868 where they had bought a farm (in 1867) for $1.25 per acre.

They came to Nebraska City by boat and then walked to Talmage. A small house was built on this land. (His great-great granddaughter, Pamela Wittler now lives in the same house.)' Rev. Ritter held church services in this house. He also walked or rode horseback to Humboldt and Brownville to hold services there. Their home served as a base for all missionaries coming to or through Nebraska.

He was a great gardener and grew many vegetables and flowers. He also had the first apple trees in Otoe County.

Under Rev. Josiah Ritter's guidance, the St. Paul Lutheran congregation was organized 2½ miles northeast of Talmage. He served St. Paul's until 1882 when he retired to his farm.

There being no Lutheran church in the village of Talmage, Rev. Ritter purchased the Congregational Church (which had disbanded in 1888) for $500.00 with the idea in mind that a Lutheran congregation would be organized in Talmage. It was decided that the time was not right for such a movement so Rev. Ritter resold the property to the Evangelical congregation in 1889.

Although it had been Rev. Ritter's desire to organize a Lutheran congregation, he was not privileged to do this as he died on March 10, 1900.

In the spring of 1904, William J. Ritter (Rev. Ritter's son) purchased two lots from Mrs. Horrum, thinking they would be an excellent location for a church. In the winter of 1903, Mrs. Josiah Ritter moved to Talmage to live with her son and his wife, Ida. They, along with several Lutheran families, had several organizational meetings and in 1905, they selected Mr. Henry Uhl as contractor for a new church to be built on their lots. The cornerstone laying service for the Trinity Lutheran Church was held on October 1, 1905 with Rev. Duerschner officiating.

William J. Ritter married Ida Emilie Misegadis on May 25, 1893. To this union were born 5 children, Arnold, Edna (Mrs. Ed Flake, Sr.), Laura (Mrs. Andrew Gabriel), Rosiland (Mrs. Rev. Ervin Vosseler), and Herbert.

The partnership of Leman Horrum and Wm. J. Ritter was formed in 1893 when they went into the hardware business. Their partnership ended with the death of Mr. Horrum in 1903. Mr. Ritter became the sole proprietor. He added the International line of farm machinery and soon became one of the outstanding dealers being recognized by the company.

Mr. Ritter was a firm believer in advertising as each week a large advertisement appeared in the Talmage Tribune. He continued in business until 1947, serving the public for 54 years. When he retired, he sold his business to his grandson, Edward Flake, Jr. Mr. Ritter always took an active part in the civic activities concerning the village of Talmage. He always supported any move for the betterment of the town and community. He was a member of the Talmage Volunteer Fire Dept. for 46 years.

Arnold J. Ritter (Wm. J's eldest son) married Lynna S. Damme of Burr, Nebr. on November 29, 1917. They resided on the Ritter family farm from 1919 to 1945 when they moved to Talmage. Lynna passed away in 1958.

They had two children, Fletcher (who died in infancy) and Marilyn A. Marilyn married LaVern Wittler on Nov. 26, 1947 and they resided on the same Ritter family farm until 1977 when they moved to Talmage. They have two children Don A. and Pamela L. who now reside on the old family farm.

Don married Kathleen Geiger of Cozad, Nebr. on August 4, 1974. They have two children, William W. and Jyl Anne. Will and Jyl are the sixth generation to reside on this farm.

WALKER FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Walker lived on a farm west of Talmage. Johnny died leaving his wife, Alice Van DeBurg Walker with six children to raise, Pearl Heinke, Laura Williams Mead, Walter A., Jesse, Ruth Mayfield and Dail. At this writing, they are all deceased but Walter and Ruth.

Johnny's Uncle John made his home with Alice and the children. At his passing, Alice inherited the farm. The boys helped farm the land. Their mother, "Allie" as she was affectionately known by her many friends, often accompanied Dr. C. T. Gritzka on his calls to help deliver a new baby.

The farm is now owned by the Henry Rohlfing family.

FREDRICK WM. WITTLER FAMILY

Fredrick Wm. Wittler was born in Westphalia, Germany in 1821. He came to the United States and settled in Nebraska in 1870 and farmed northwest of Talmage. In 1879, after helping a neighbor to build a barn, he walked home across the Nemaha South Branch bottoms through wet, tall grass and weeds. He caught cold and died of pneumonia. Fredrick's son, Henry, was born in Westphalia in 1858 and came to Nebraska with his parents. He was married to Minnie Damme in 1883 and died in Cook, Nebr. in 1954 at the age of 96. Eight children were born to them. Of these, Edward and Herman chose to remain in the Talmage area. Edward married Anna Wellensiek. Their son, August, and daughter, Evelyn (Mrs. Raymond Fisher of Johnson) were raised in this locality. Herman married Freda Rinne in 1918. He passed away in 1981. They had three children. Merlyn and her husband, Raymond Arends, live on a farm near Talmage. They had three children, Richard, David and Daniel (deceased). Arlene and her husband, Leonard Fliescher live at Columbus, Nebr. LaVern married Marilyn Ritter in 1947. They have a daughter, Pam, and a son, Don, who married Kathy Gieger in 1974. Their two children, Will and Jyl, are the sixth generation of Wittlers to live in the Talmage area.

Talmage Centennial Celebration

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1982

1 PM to 5 PM	TALMAGE HERITAGE DAY - Main Street DISPLAYS DEPICTING TALMAGE'S PAST CHAUTAUQUA FLEA MARKET
3 PM	PARADE - Main Street - GOVERNOR CHARLES THONE RECOGNITION OF 16 SENIOR CITIZENS SPEECH - CONGRESSMAN DOUG BEREUTER
5 PM	BARBEQUE AND BEER GARDEN AT PARK
9 PM	GEORGIA RHYTHM DANCE AT PARK

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1982

8:30 AM to 1 PM	FIRE AND RESCUE BREAKFAST AT FIRE HOUSE
10 AM	COMBINED COMMUNITY CHURCH SERVICE
12:15	SPECIAL MUSIC
1 PM	HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT AT BALL PARK 1st HALF OF MEN'S SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
5:30	1st HALF OF SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT
1 PM to 4 PM	YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT BALL PARK
6:30	TALMAGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BANQUET & MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 31, 1982

9 AM	MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT VETERANS PARK
11 AM	2nd HALF MEN'S SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
4 PM	2nd HALF MEN'S SLO-PITCH TOURNAMENT

PUBLIC IS INVITED

The Talmage Community Center and its Talmage Centennial Committee wishes to thank all of the following businesses located in and around the Talmage area for their support of Talmage Centennial and this book. Please support your local businesses. THANKS - Talmage Centennial Committee

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